The
Niagara Advance

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Thursday, October 1, 2015

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Town gets nod from CIB judges 7

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Steampunk powers Fort George

As the three-day Grand Canadian Steampunk Exposition, where the industrial revolution era combines with science fiction, those who took over Fort George for the weekend posed for a group photo For more about the event, see Page 10. Fred Mercnik/Special to the Advance

Safety steps taken after collisions at Conc. 2, Line 3

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Three collisions within three weeks at one rural intersection in town have led to some changes to the intersection to make it safer for traffic.

The intersection of Line 3, often used as a throughway from Virgil to the Niagara River Parkway, and Concession 2, was identified in a 2012 road safety report as the one with the most collisions in a five-year period.

Dawn McInnis, the Town communications person, told the Advance following those collisions that staff reviewed the intersection "and determined it is in compliance with requirements for a two-way stop."

But residents were concerned about their own safety, and asking the town if there was anything more that could be done.

The three collisions occurred between Aug. 15 and 28, Cont. Gina Allen of the Niagara Regional Police confirmed to the Advance.

None involved serious injuries, just vehicle damage, and all occurred because a driver either entered the intersection without stopping on Line 3, stopped but proceeded before the way was clear, or in one case, said she didn't see the stop sign.

After being contacted by residents about their concerns, Coun. Martin Mazza met with some neighbours to the intersection, the Town's traffic specialist, Marci Weston, and Doug Kerr, the director of public works, to see what could be done to make it safer.

The 2012 road safety report, prepared by a consultant for the town, said red flashing beacons had been added to the stop signs at Line 3, and the impact of the lights should be monitored - but there were no flashing lights on the stop signs, and one resident asked why not.

That was an error on the part of the consultant, who confused the intersection with the one at Concession 2 and Line 8, where flashing lights have been added, said McInnis.

Most of the recommendations in the report were implemented at Concession 2 and Line 3, including the replacement of a Stop Ahead warning sign and the advance intersection warnings, installation of tiger tails on stop signs and a review and installation of posted speed limits.

The street name signs and stop signs were also oversized.

Town staff requested reports on the three collisions from the NRP before they met with residents, but is still waiting to hear back, said Weston.

Since then, lines have been repainted on the road to mark the intersection, some of which were faded or removed by road maintenance, said Weston.

This was done as part of the town's routine fall line painting, although the intersection was identified as a priority and was amongst the first to be completed, said Weston.

Trees were trimmed to improve sightlines the day after the meeting with residents as a result of comments made at that meeting, she said.

The Stop Ahead and Cross Traffic Does Not Stop signs will be separated onto individual posts for greater impact, she said.

Further remedial steps will be taken as appropriate once the collision reports are received, and may include the installation of flashing beacons, she said.

The 2012 road safety report cited collisions at intersections occurring because drivers either fail to stop or stop but then proceed even though there is another vehicle approaching, likely because their minds haven't registered what they've seen, or how fast the vehicle coming toward them is travelling.

Although the study didn't look at whether the majority of collisions involved locals or visitors, distraction because of way-finding was also cited as a possible cause - hence the recommendation for oversized street name and stop signs.

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Councillors opposed to sale of Hydro One

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake didn't want to sell its own distribution company to Hydro One, and it doesn't want Hydro One sold by the province.

NOTL town councillors are supporting a request from MPP Wayne Gates to oppose the province's plan to sell Hydro One.

Gates asked councillors in July to object to the sale of the public utility to private investors, saying Premier Kathleen Wynne is engaged in "a bitter battle" to sell shares of the Hydro One to fund infrastructure projects around the province – a decision he said most Ontario residents do not support.

"The premier may make money for a one-time sale, but the revenue will be gone forever," said Gates.

Hydro One provides about $500 million a year for the province to spend on infrastructure, health care and education, and it makes no sense to give up that revenue, he said.

A resolution passed last week by town councillors said local control and decision-making regarding public utilities is important to local residents.

NOTL joins Niagara Falls and Fort Erie in Gates' riding, as well as more than 150 communities across Ontario and 80 per cent of the residents of the province in opposing the sale, said Gates.

The motion made last week by Coun. Jamie King said transmission rates managed locally over the past 10 years have increased at about the rate of inflation, while Hydro One distribution rates have consistently exceeded the rate of inflation, and have been higher throughout the province than those of local distribution companies.

The motion calls on the sale to be stopped in its current form, and Hydro One separated into transmission and distribution companies.

If it is to be sold, it should only be as part of a broader plan to improve rates and keep proceeds within the electricity sector, said the motion, and should respect local decision-making powers of local distribution companies.

Gates said privatization will result in higher prices for electricity and impact businesses such as manufacturing, and the tourism industry. He said young families and seniors will also suffer due to the increased costs.

Some seniors are already forced to choose between paying their hydro bill or buying food, and that can only get worse, he said.

"We can't make taxpayers pay for these errors," said Gates, referring to provincial spending and debt load. "I don't think there is an issue more important today."

Both NDP and Conservative representatives are daily questioning the sale in the legislature, he says.

"Selling Hydro One is the wrong thing to do, and I believe they (the Liberals) have an obligation to listen," said Gates.

The first public shares of Hydro One are expected to go on sale next spring, barring a change in plans by the Liberals.

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Candidates take part in lively debate

Ray Spiteri
Postmedia Network

To deal, or not to deal, with Saudi Arabia?

That was one of the questions that got federal candidates representing Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake and Fort Erie into a lively exchange during Monday's debate, broadcast live on local Postmedia websites.

Conservative, Liberal, NDP and Green candidates were asked how their respective parties would deal with Saudi Arabia, considered an ally in the fight against ISIS, but also considered as having one of the worst human-rights records in the world.

"We always speak up on behalf of human rights. We make interventions. We reach out to those countries to see that they can comply with all the international rules on that, and Saudi Arabia is no exception," said incumbent Conservative MP Rob Nicholson. "That being said, Saudi Arabia is a voice for stability in this area, and the fight against ISIS."

The Conservative government has come under criticism for signing a military deal with Saudi Arabia in the face of questions about human-rights abuses in that country.

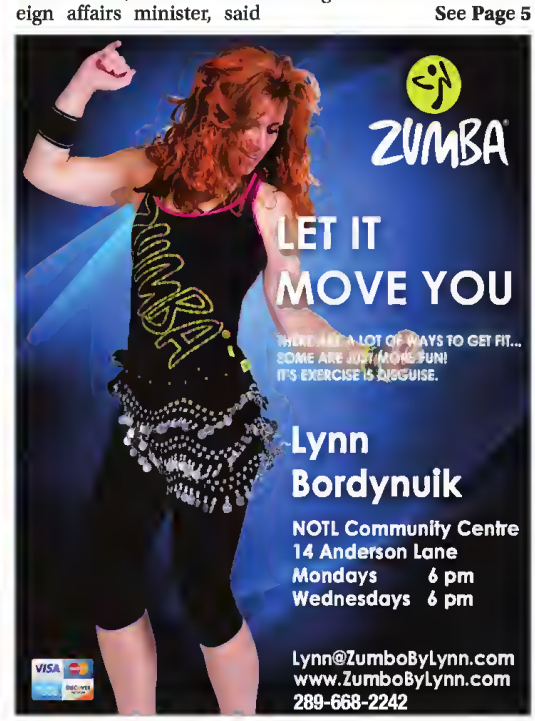
The government last year brokered a $14.8 billion contact to sell light-armoured vehicles to the Saudis. Prime Minister Stephen Harper said cancelling the contract would punish Ontario plant workers.

Nicholson, Canada's foreign affairs minister, said the contract provides jobs to 3,000 people in the London, Ont., area.

"These are important jobs, but at the same time, we are all in the fight against ISIS, and we're co-operating with Saudi Arabia, and other countries," he said. "That being said, we don't excuse the human-rights violations of any country, and we always step forward and we make that very, very clear. It's not a perfect situation, I agree with that."

The Green, Liberal and NDP candidates took turns ripping the Tory approach to foreign affairs, including their approach to fighting ISIS, and the Harper government's reaction to the Syrian refugee crisis.

See Page 5



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Saudi deal discussed

From Page 4

"I don't think Saudi Arabia is a voice for stability at all. We would definitely impose sanctions on Saudi Arabia for this draconian behaviour that they're engaged in." NDP candidate Carolynn Ioannoni said sanctions "definitely need to be imposed" on Saudi Arabia.

Liberal candidate Ron Planche said civil rights are of "fundamental importance" and that Canada needs to "rethink" its foreign policy, including "how we treat countries that do abuse civil rights."

But only Green candidate Steven Soos directly answered whether their respective parties would cancel the contract with Saudi Arabia.

"We would cancel the arms deal," said Soos. "We think that is a bad idea because it instills violence, and we want to be a peacekeeping nation."

Ioannoni and Planche both said they were not sure if their leaders, given the opportunity, would cancel the contract.

Ioannoni said while the Conservatives claim to have a good record speaking out against human-rights violations around the world, their own Bill C-51 infringes on Canadians' human rights. in the guise of fighting terror.

Planche said the Conservatives' approach of "bombing people from 50,000 feet in the air" will not solve the problem in the Middle East.

Canada should be more engaged in peacemaking, rather than being an aggressor, he said.

Nicholson said Canada has a record of standing up "against oppressors.

"We are standing up to terrorism," he said.

It led to a lively back-and-forth debate between Planche and Nicholson.

"Rob ... you are really a part of the problem ... not part of the solution," said Planche.

"No we're not," shot back Nicholson. "ISIS is the problem, not Canada."

To watch the full debate, which was sponsored by the Niagara Falls Chamber of Commerce, visit www.niagarafallsreview.ca/2015/09/27/live-monday-niagara-falls-candidates-debate.

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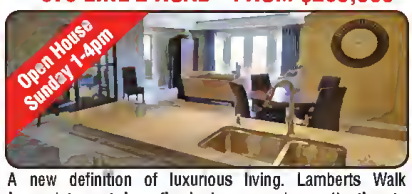

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The Niagara Advance

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Point of View

Fight to save Hydro One gains momentum

Could even the Liberals think it's a good idea?

While political focus is on the federal election, locally, we should be paying more attention to what is going on at Queen's Park: the growing opposition to the sale of Hydro One.

MPP Wayne Gates has received resolutions from all three municipalities in his riding - all opposed to the sale.

About 80 percent of Ontario residents, understandably, are opposed - the sale to private investors of a public utility is fraught with potential problems, not the least of which is loss of control over hydro rates, which are already scary enough.

It's taken a while, but the momentum is growing.

There are petitions to sign online, communities across the province are joining in with resolutions asking for the sale to be stopped, and the provincial Conservatives, who at one time wanted to sell off Hydro One themselves, are now joining the NDP during question period to hammer home what a ridiculous idea it is.

Bay Street is salivating over the opportunity to sell shares, and the money, the Liberal government says, will help to pay for infrastructure.

In Niagara-on-the-Lake, our local utility already helps to fund infrastructure, thanks to a wise decision to hang on to it.

Across the province, Hydro One could also continue to help funding infrastructure - as long as it's run sort of competently - for decades to come, not just for the few short years until the money from the sale of 60 percent of it has all been spent.

Can Premier Kathleen Wynne be convinced to do an about-face?

Not likely. She has a majority government behind her and a few years ahead of her before the next election - time, she must be counting on, to help voters forget. Time to hand out some cash to communities for infrastructure projects, to temporarily give the impression that selling shares in Hydro One was a good idea, until the cash has disappeared and hydro rates have gone through the roof, with no way to stop them.

But at least we have to thank our municipal representatives and provincial opposition politicians for not giving up in the face of what seems like a done deal. We can't go down without a fight.

The best gift of all - giving to others

Mira Strickland is grateful to her friends and their parents for their generous birthday gifts, which will go straight to Community Care of St. Catharines and Thorold. The Thorold office, which has a food bank and thrift shop, suffered a fire during the summer, and Mira chose to help top up their supplies by asking friends to donate non-perishable items for the food bank for her sixth birthday. In addition to being able to help out a good cause, Mira said she had a special and fun birthday party.

letters to the editor

Thanks for support for local cyclist

I would like to take this opportunity to say a great big thank you to all of the sponsors that contributed to Joey Carone's 2015 cycling season.

Joey competed in his final outdoor Ontario Youth Cup Series - Provincial Road Race on Saturday, Sept. 12, in London. He won the race and was presented with an Ontario Championship jersey for the Men's U15 category.

He has now switched gears - literally, and is training indoors on the track at the new Mattamy National Cycling Centre in Milton, built for the 2015 Pan Am Games.

Joey will compete there mid-October in the Track Nationals where he will compete in several of the Men's U17 races.

As Joey had many local supporters and sponsors throughout Niagara and the GTA, I would particularly like to thank those local sponsors: Willow Cakes and Pastries, Antica Pizzeria and WIN Health Solutions.

Thank you to everyone who has wished him well and offered positive feedback and encouragement over this past season.

Lesley Brown
and Joey Carone

NOTL keeps dream alive

"Even if I don't finish we need others to continue. It's got to keep going without me."

– Terry Fox

The Niagara-on-the-Lake community continues to fulfill Terry's dream. All the support from local businesses and the Lewiston-Niagara-on-the-Lake Rotary Club helped make the event a huge success.

The efforts of all the students who participated the Saturday before the run were greatly appreciated.

The event could not have happened without the support of all the incredible volunteers. Special thanks to Danny and Kyle Lamb for their gift of music, the NOTL Chiropractic Clinic for providing massages, and the Niagara Ice Dogs Cheerleaders for their spirit.

Also, sincere thanks to the people at the Outlet Collection at Niagara for hosting a movie fest which contributed to our success.

Thank you to all the participants who helped raise over $60,000 for cancer research.

The Terry Fox Run is not only about raising funds for cancer research but also preserving the dream and integrity of Terry himself.

Thank you NOTL for keeping it alive.

Joan King

Greenbelt in NOTL could be reduced

Did you know that the Niagara Regional council wants the flexibility to allow for expansion and development into greenbelt lands between Virgil and Old Town along Niagara Stone Road under the creation of Special Policy Areas?

This is part of their position in their 2015 Co-ordinated Policy Review Comment Submission, i.e. Greenbelt Plan, Niagara Escarpment Plan, etc.

Erosion of the greenbelt in NOTL would impact our economic base, since maintaining greenbelt boundaries is critical to tourism.

In addition, traffic issues along Niagara Stone Road are currently a major concern to residents and this would exacerbate the problem.

More development will mean more traffic. NOTL council should reject this specific proposal and maintain current greenbelt boundaries for the good of our community.

Sandra O'Connor

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OUR LETTERS POLICY

To be considered for publication, all letters must include the writer's full name, address and telephone number for verification purposes.
Only your name and the city/town where you live will be published.
Please keep your comments to a maximum of 500 words.
Submit your letters via e-mail to: penny.coles@sunmedia.ca

Opinion

Town moves on in Communities in Bloom competition

I hope everyone had a great summer. Now that we are officially into fall, I wanted to provide an update on some issues that may be of interest to residents.

Pat Darte
Lord Mayor's Update

Communities in Bloom

Congratulations to our Communities in Bloom Committee for doing such a great job with the judging this summer that the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has received five blooms, the top rating. This means we now qualify for the national competition next year.

The town was also presented with an award for landscape and a special mention for partnering with business in floral displays. Thanks to all of our residents and business supporters for helping us with this achievement.

Former NDSS Property

Earlier this year, a Request for Expressions of Interest was issued by the town to invite proposals for developing the former high school property at 1875 Niagara Stone Road. A committee has been established to review the proposals and we hope to report back to Council with development options in the near future.

Expansion of NOTL Transit

In July, a second NOTL Transit line was added to accommodate residents in the Queenston, St. Davids and Glendale areas. This new route was introduced as a pilot project and is scheduled to run until later this year.

Currently, it provides an 11-hour daily service between Queenston and Glendale, Monday to Saturday, excluding holidays. Staff is expected to provide Council with an update on the new bus line in the near future.

Dock Area Improvements

There are a number of improvements in the works for the Melville Street Dock Area. Council has approved a final landscape design and the house at 105 River Beach Dr. has already been demolished and the lands have been graded to provide more green space and public access to the waterfront.

Other proposed changes will be phased in over the next few years, including shoreline erosion control, relocating the cedar hedge further west, and a review of the pathway and sidewalks.

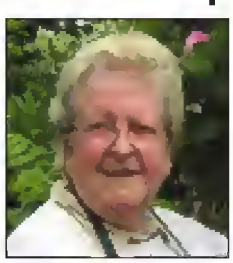
Communities in Bloom judges, visiting NOTL in August, stopped to chat with historic strollers in Simcoe Park.

Reminder to residents - Council will host its next Community Update meeting at the Community Centre on Tuesday, Oct. 20. Please watch for the newspaper notice for further details.

Time to think about protecting roses from winter wind and cold

We have been very fortunate weather-wise, and most of the perennials are still looking great.

My daughter changed a lot of the plants in the front, replacing a lot of them with hostas and other perennials with colourful leaves, which means there has been non-stop colour and interest without too much work or worry - it has been wonderful.



Jean Cochrane
Happy Gardening

So take a look around and you can be ahead for next spring.

Yes, it is time to get into all the planning. Remember you can layer your bulbs - later ones on the bottom, early ones on top. If you're having a hard time finding superphosphate to boost and protect your bulbs, your best bet is to hop on the internet.

Several people have asked about pruning and winter protection for their roses. If your roses have been neglected and there are long, whip like branches - you need to cut them off. But, generally you should cut canes back to three or four feet high and tie them together with string before winter. Don't prune them back any farther than that until they're dormant - you have a pretty wide window for this anytime starting in January through April.

Roses really need to be protected from the wind and the cold of winter - so in early to mid-fall, when the nights are getting regularly frosty, mound several spadefuls of soil over the base of the plant, extending the soil up at least a foot above the bud union.

When the ground is completely frozen add a foot of mulch, straw or compost.

Keep in mind even as the days and nights get cooler everything still needs to be watered.

New shrubs or perennials you have planted or are planning on planting need to have their roots protected over the winter - so when you're mulching your beds, make sure new plants and shrubs get an extra helping.

Happy gardening.

ALL CANDIDATES DEBATE FOR UPCOMING FEDERAL ELECTION

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VISITOR AND CONVENTION BUREAU
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- Location: Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre -14 Anderson Lane
- Time: Doors open at 6:00pm
- Day: Monday, October 5th
- Hosted by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce
- Everyone is welcome to attend

Bravo Niagara! and the Royal Oak Community School are joining forces to keep music education alive in Old Town. Bravo Niagara! artistic director Christine Mori embraces students of the school, who are excited to perform with JUNO-winning singer Dominic Mancuso before the Nathaniel Dett Chorale's performance at St. Mark's Anglican Church for the North Star Festival Oct. 3 at 8 p.m. They will also sing at an open rehearsal at Food for the Soul, with food trucks and artisans at The Market @ The Village, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. before the Saturday concert, with a rain location at Navy Hall.

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Wycliffe Gordon steps in at last minute to headline concert

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Wycliffe Gordon, considered a musical ambassador and interpreter of America's music, will step in to headline the opening night of the North Star Festival, replacing Joe Sealy who, due to illness, is unable to perform.

Bravo Niagara artistic director Chris Mori learned earlier this week that she had to replace her lead performer, and says she is very fortunate to have Gordon, considered one of the best trombone players by critics, step in to play alongside Jumaane Smith, trumpeter for Michael Buble, at the 8 p.m. concert at St. Mark's Church Friday.

As disappointed as she is that Sealy is unable to perform, Mori says she is thrilled to have a musician of Gordon's calibre agree to appear on such short notice at the inaugural North Star Festival, which will use music to celebrate and share the stories of the freedom-seekers who came to Canada via the Underground Railroad.

"It's extremely unfortunate that Joe Sealy will not be able to headline the Friday evening concert," said Mori, wishing him a speedy recovery.

Gordon, she added, "will be an outstanding addition to the North Star Festival."

The three-day event Oct. 2 to 4 features concerts - some free - speakers and a freedom cruise along the Niagara River.

'It is our hope that through the North Star Festival, we can use music as a bridge for dialogue and cross-cultural understanding," says Alexis Spieldenner, Mori's daughter, who co-founded the Bravo Niagara! Festival of the Arts last year.

The festival has been endorsed by the UNESCO Slave Route Project, a global initiative to break the silence about the slave trade, "which is not just a problem of the past, but a current world issue that needs to be addressed," says Spieldenner.

The weekend begins with a free symposium at the Niagara Historical Society & Museum in Niagara-on-the-Lake Friday at 1 p.m. Speaking will be Dr. Michele Johnson, director of the Harriet Tubman Institute at York University, professor Judith Wellman of the State University of New York, Randy Andropolis of Niagara University and Niagara's own Wilma Morrison, who will speak about Niagara Falls African-Canadian composer Nathaniel Dett.

Later that night Gordon will perform at St. Mark's - an appropriate location for the North Star Festival not only because of the church acoustics but because of its deep historical ties to the first Black settlers in NOTL, with baptism and burial records dating back to the early 19th century, said Mori.

On Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., The Market@ The Village will host Food for the Soul, with food trucks, artisans and a recital by Royal Oak Community School students. The event will move to Navy Hall if it rains, she says.

The Royal Oak children, from Kindergarten to Grade 2, will also perform Saturday evening with JUNO-winning singer Dominic Mancuso before the Nathaniel Dett Chorale's performance at St. Mark's, but will be having a public rehearsal at the market of their song, a poignant, African spiritual that they first sang at the closing assembly for Parliament Oak School last June, said Mori. It was one of the coded songs sung by slaves to help map out their road to freedom. The rehearsal will be part of the Food for the Soul event, and will also take place at Navy Hall if it rains.

The Nathaniel Dett Chorale is Canada's first professional choral group dedicated to Afrocentric music, named for a man from Niagara Falls whose parents were also freedom seekers.

The choir, which has been invited to perform in the U.S., including at Barack Obama's inauguration, is referred to, said Spieldenner, as "a national treasure."

On Oct. 4 there will be a free community concert with Diana Braithwaite, also a descendant of freedom-seekers, and Chris Whiteley at the new Harriet Tubman Public School in St. Catharines, 84 Henry St., starting at 2 p.m.

The Freedom River Cruise departs from River Frontage Road in Queenston at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4. Performing will be Motown artist Harrison Kennedy. Stories of local black history from both sides of the river will be told, emphasizing that slaves risked their lives attempting to cross to freedom.

For tickets and more information, visit www.bravoniagara.org.

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Thursday, October 8, 2015
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Fire Station # 1, 2 Anderson Lane

On Thursday, October 8, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., **Tyco Integrated Fire & Security (Simplex-Grinnell)** will be at Fire Station # 1, 2 Anderson Lane (near the Library), to service fire extinguishers. The cost for the annual inspection has been set at $3.50 per extinguisher.

Under the Fire Code (NFPA 10), fire extinguishers shall be inspected by a professional on an annual basis.

If you have any questions prior to October 8, please contact the Niagara-on-the-Lake Fire & Emergency Services Department at 905-468-3266 Ext 261 or e-mail at firedept@notl.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE
PESTICIDE USE

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake intends to control aphids in hanging baskets and planters along the following roadsides:

Queen Street, King Street, Picton Street, Market Street, Highway 55, Creek Road, Queenston Street, York Road, Riverbeach Drive and Niagara-on-the-Green Boulevard within the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

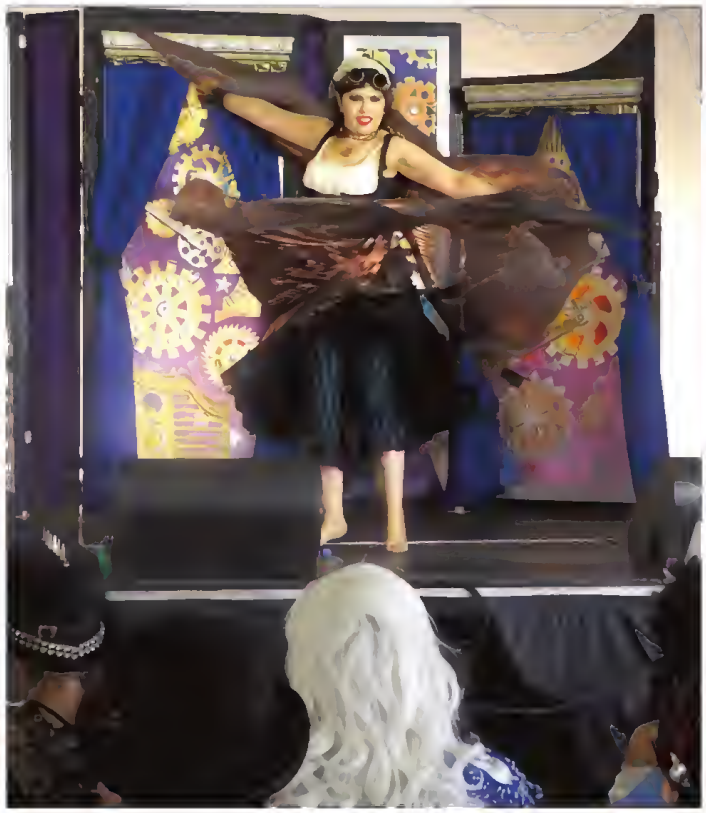
The pesticide to be used is Safer's Insecticidal Soap, an active ingredient Soap (potassium salts of fatty acids) Registration No. 14668.00 under the Pest Control Products Act (Canada).

The program commenced on June 4, 2015 and will continue until October 9, 2015.

For further information, please contact J.B. Hopkins, Parks Supervisor, at 905-468-4261 Ext. 266. Collect calls will be accepted from individuals calling long distance.

Zahira from Dragonfly Bellydance performs a solo act on the steam stage. The Dragonfly Bellydancers were among several performers to grace the stage throughout the weekend at the three-day Grand Canadian Steampunk Exposition at Fort George.

Jennifer Chornley/Special to the Advance



Steampunk takes over Fort

Jennifer Chornley
Special to the Advance

In an Alice Wonderland theme-inspired event, enthusiasts descended the rabbit hole of Fort George to take in all things steampunk this weekend, where the industrial revolution era meets science fiction.

The three-day Grand Canadian Steampunk Exposition featured musical acts, product vendors, house of invention, parasol dueling, tea dueling, steampunk pistol dueling, teapot racing and art duel.

The major headlining acts for the Friday and Saturday concerts were Abney Park and Steam Powered Giraffe, with supporting performances by Professor Elemental and Jardin Mécanique.

Also, rounding out the exposition's festivities included the return of the Dragonfly Bellydancers and Mental Floss Sideshow: Feat of Derring-Do, Majinx Mind Bender Alley containing an interactive exhibition of brainteasers, kinetic sculptures and photo-ops, a busker stage, Kinderpunk featuring kids' activities and various photo op boards.

Enthusiasts also had opportunities to engage with festival participants at various panels, workshops and band meet and greets.

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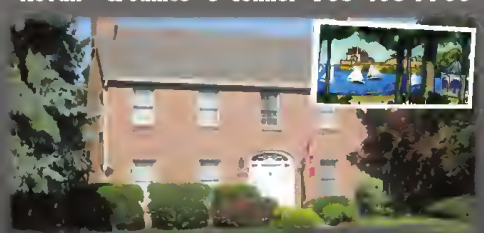

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Saturday October 3, 7:00 p.m.
50th Anniversary Choir Program
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Sunday October 4, 10:00 a.m.
Celebration Worship Service followed by a Potluck Lunch

Potluck LUNCHEON

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Replacing popular minister won't be an easy job

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Finding a replacement for Rev. Boh Wright won't be an easy job - and it likely won't be easy for the person who replaces him.

Donald Combe is one of four people tasked with finding just the right person to take over at St. Mark's Anglican Church, now that Wright has retired.

In his 17 years in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Wright hecame very much admired and respected, not only at church, hut in the wider community, says Combe.

"He was perfect for this community. When he spoke to people, he always made it personal, so that they felt he was speaking specifically to them. And he was. He ministered to everyone as an individual."

It was one of Wright's greatest skills, said Combe.

"He could talk to anyhody, from any walk of life."

But Wright has preached his last sermon, and he and his wife Patti have moved from Niagara-on-the-Lake to their home near Madoc, Ont., which has been waiting for their retirement and the next stage of their lives.

Replacing Wright will he difficult, says Combe.

"This could take a long time. St. Mark's is such a special parish. Its needs are unique. People come here to retire, and a lot of them are very highly educated.

"Boh used to say "you know you have a special congregation when you can look out on a Sunday morning and see at least five people with the Order of Canada."

He also believed in "abundant hospitality. I think that sums him up well," said Comhe, of the man who wanted the church doors to be left open to the public, locals and visitors, and who often opened the rectory to visitors as well.

He also welcomed musicians to use the church - because St. Mark's has wonderful acoustics, and also because music was a huge part of Wright's life as well, he helped establish an annual summer music festival, hosting many world-class musicians.

It might he the music and the choir that will hold the church together, said Comhe.

Currently, Rev. Bruce McPetrie, who retired from St. Columba Anglican Church in St. Catharines, is at St. Mark's part-time for Sunday and Wednesday services, in an interim position.

Combe, along with wardens Carol Nixon and Chris Bjorgan, and church member Gary Burroughs, make up the "parochial committee," which will take as long as it takes to find a replacement, he said - there is no deadline for a decision.

They are meeting this week with people from the diocese office who will take them through the process.

Unlike some denominations, where the congregation chooses a successor, in the Anglican church, a committee of wardens, and in this case, two others as requested hy Wright, will advise Bishop Michael Bird, who then makes the decision.

The four committee members are all long-time memhers of the congregation "with different aspects of interest, concern and involvement in the church," said Comhe, "and all very aware of the responsihility," he added.

See Page 15

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67 FOUR MILE CREEK ROAD $525,000

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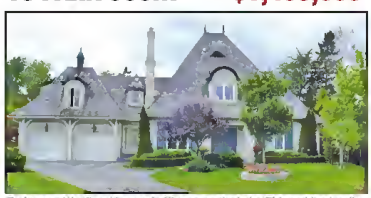

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28 BROCK STREET $779,000

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Tucked away on a quiet street in The Village, this beautiful home is a short walk from all of Niagara-on-the-Lake's world-class amenities. Situated on a gracious lot and featuring an inviting and deep front porch, open concept living space with cathedral ceilings, a master bedroom conveniently located on the main floor, a private loft getaway, and beautiful colours, features, and finishes, this home is not to be missed! **MLS# N30050765. Adam Hawley and Chris Bowron.**

7 MURRAY STREET $749,500

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16 NORTON ST. $879,000

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4

Inspired architecture, ideal location on a park with vineyard vistas, gorgeous upgraded colours, features and finishes, and an elegant design with meticulous attention to detail, this home has it all! The Great Room is the perfect place to entertain, the Master Suite is conveniently located on the main floor, and the lower level, complete with 9' ceilings, provides an ideal getaway for family and friends. **Adam Hawley and Chris Bowron. MLS# N30051669**

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The congregation of St. Mark's and the community held a retirement party for Rev. Bob Wright and his wife Patti recently, and now the work begins to find a replacement. Photo by Cosmo Condina

'Just another glitch' for church

From Page 13

"We have to work from the premise that whatever happens, it's not going to be the same.

"We know this is fraught with many difficulties, but the church has faced many difficulties in the past, and this is just another glitch," said Combe.

"But it is business as usual at the church, under the guidance of the bishop. We have confidence in the bishop and in the system," he said.

"St. Mark's has been here nearly 225 years, and is looking forward to the next 225 years," said Combe.

They face new challenges every day. The sex ed. and health curriculum can help. The first updates since 1998 will help parents and teachers give kids the skills they need to stay safe. Find out what kids will learn grade by grade at ontario.ca/hpe.

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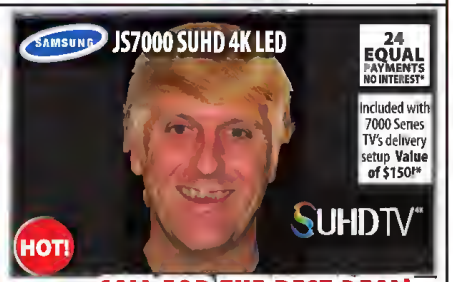

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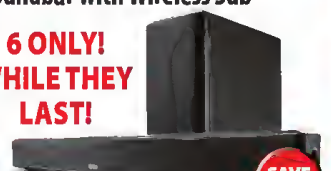

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CEDIA

Chop shop owner jailed for three years

Tony Ricciuto
Postmedia Network

The owner of a luxury chop shop in Niagara-on-the-Lake will be spending the next three years behind bars.

George Tsigirlash, 46, the owner of Auto Enterprises Inc. appeared for sentencing Monday in front of Justice James Ramsay in the Superior Court of Justice in Welland.

During an earlier court appearance in June,Tsigirlash was convicted of 40 counts of possession of stolen property and two counts of fraud.

On Monday, he was sentenced to four years in jail, minus his pretrial custody, which leaves another three years that will be served in the penitentiary.

Tsigirlash had been scbeduled to be sentenced on Aug. 13, but it was held over to allow for a pre-sentence report.

Assistant Crown attorney Tom Jacob had asked the judge to consider a sentence of four and a half years.

Jacob said this was a complicated case and he was pleased with the outcome.

This was a joint forces operation launched in 2009 between Niagara Regional Police, Toronto Police and OPP - dubbed Project Enterprise - that uncovered a theft and fraud ring involving as many as 140 vehicles.

According to police, many of the vehicles were stolen and patched together using wrecks before being sold. The chop shop scheme involved a few different scams, including the creation of so-called Frankenautos.

Police said when vehicles are pieced together in this fashion, it compromises safety sensors, airbags and the overall structural integrity of the vehicle.

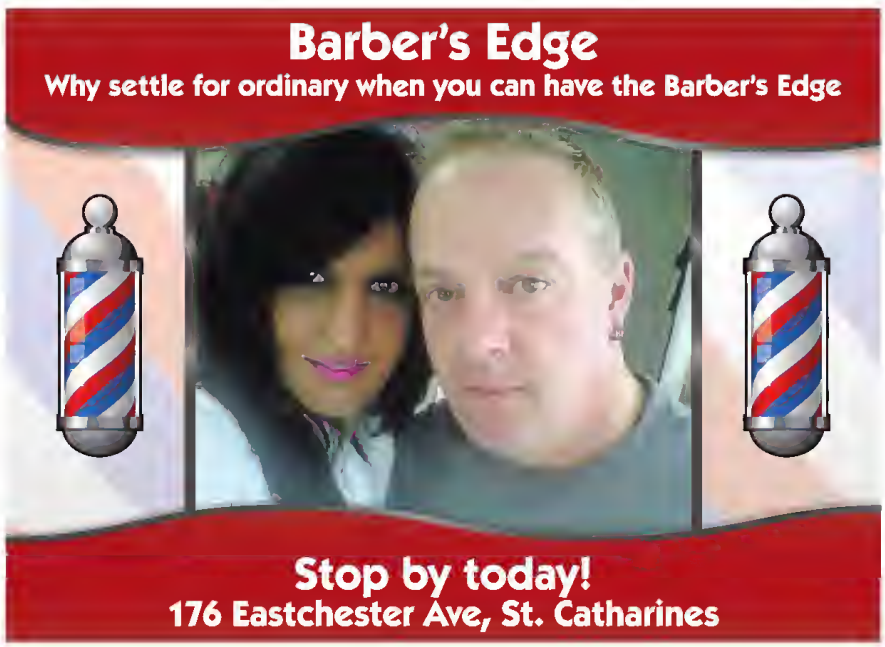
Tsigirlash ran a salvage yard and a repair shop and also sold car parts from the business located at 620 Lincoln Avenue in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The large scrap yard had an office building and a Quonset hut, next to Tsigirlash's residence.

Defence lawyer Geoffrey Hadfield maintained his client did not know that any of the items in question had been stolen.

The judge found that Tsigirlash knew everything that was going on at Auto Enterprises - his employees and contractors were not doing things on their own. Whether it was repairs or a sale, the boss at the business knew about it, the judge said.

Niagara Regional Police were on the scene of Auto Enterprises, a chop shop in NOTL, for several days in June 2011, hauling away high-end vehicles that had been stripped of their components. Postmedia Network file photo



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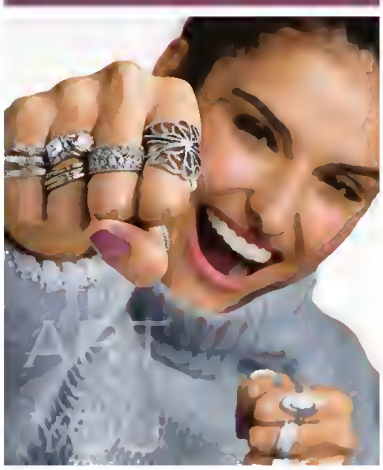

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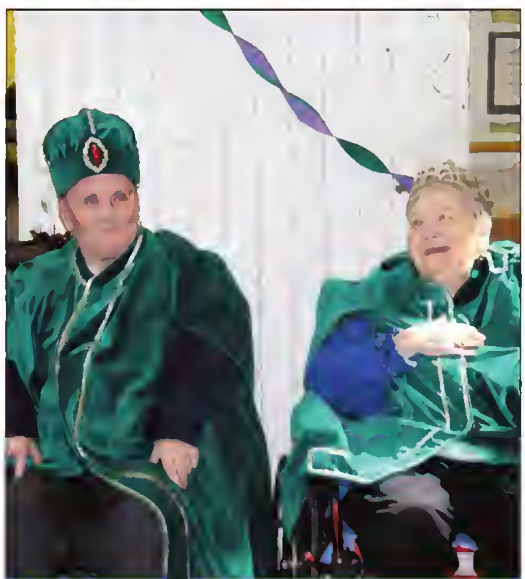
Recreation director Carolyn Bergen (left) dances with Grape King Roger Blanchard as residents of Upper Canada Lodge enjoy their own Wine Festival celebration, with some country music, grapes and, of course, wine. Doris Small was named Grape Queen. The royal couple were chosen by votes from staff at the NOTL seniors residence.



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Queenston Art Show a Thanksgiving tradition

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Susan Wintrop has been part of the Niagara-on-the-Lake art scene since she moved to town about 20 years ago.

But although she has been painting most of her life, it has been her pottery she was known for.

She teaches art classes at the Niagara Pumphouse Art Centre, and a drop-in class Wednesday afternoons at the community centre. She's shown her pottery at the Pumphouse, but her paintings, until now, have been mostly done to use as examples for her art students, "not to put them out into the world," she says.

The Queenston Art Show will be her first exhibit of paintings, and she's excited and happy to have the opportunity to be part of the annual Thanksgiving tradition of the Queenston Residents Association, she says.

She is one of about 50 artists who will display their work Thanksgiving weekend, Friday through Monday, Oct. 9 to 12, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Queenston Library.

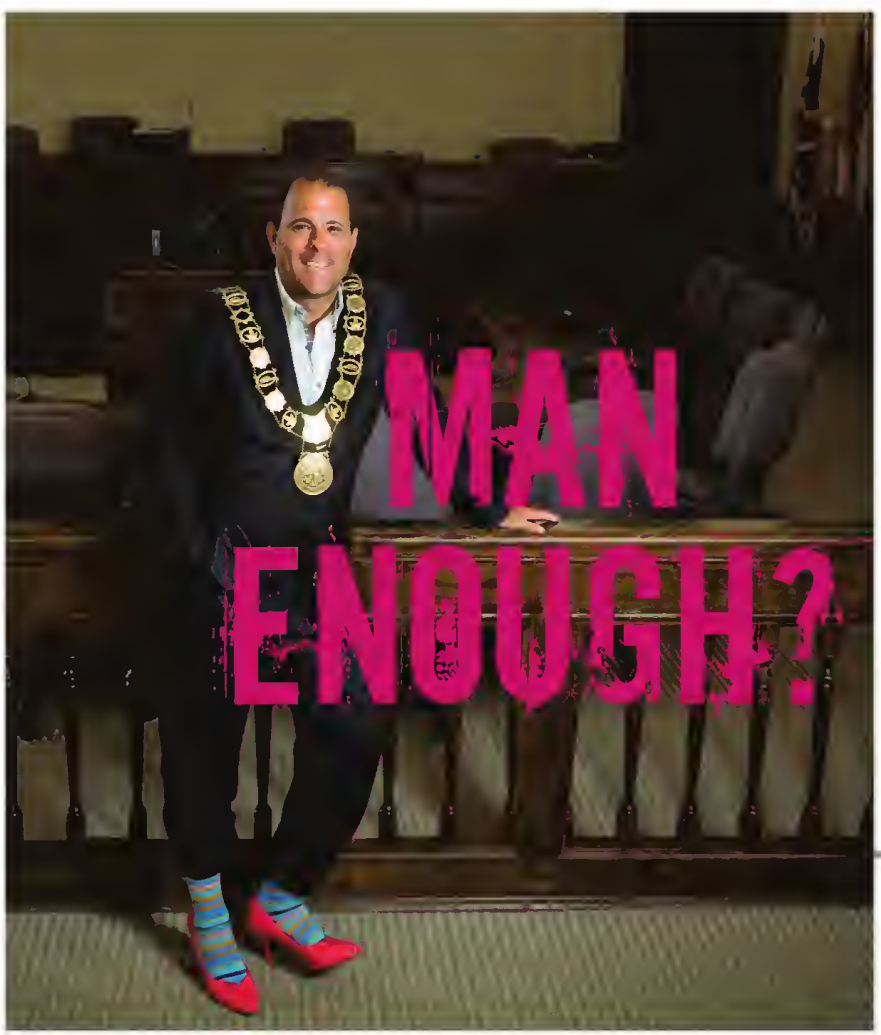
Jane Calver, one of the organizers, says as is customary, each artist is allowed space for two framed works and some unframed work.

And although there will be some familiar faces returning, there will also be several artists who have not attended the show before, she says.

The Queenston Residents Association takes 25 percent of the sale price, and the money will go back to the community, Calver says.

Penny Coles Niagara Advance

Margaret Torrance and Jane Calver are helping to organize the annual art show at the Queenston Library, where local artist Susan Wintrop will be displaying and selling her art.



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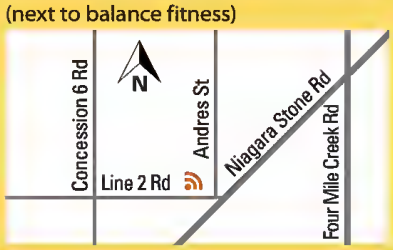

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Rocky Horror winding up at Cork's

John Law
Postmedia Network

You better do the time warp while you still can.

One of local theatre's most popular offerings, The Rocky Horror Show in Niagara-on-the-Lake, has begun its fourth and final season at Cork's Playhouse Theatre on Queen Street.

And not because audiences have had enough. Far from it, says director Dina Mavridis. Last weekend's opening packed the place as usual.

"In all honesty, people think we're crazy," she says. "The shows have been selling really well. We've had a lot of sold-out performances, especially the past two years. Why stop now?"

Because even a successful Rocky needs to recharge its batteries. After four years of garters and over-the-top transvestites, Mavridis and husband Rob Burke, who started the show with their company Something-Something Productions, want to try something different.

Something smaller. With less smeared lipstick.

"Until this becomes my nine-to-five (job), I think smaller shows are just a nice break for me," she says. "i can kind of explore more."

Mavridis' family owns Corks, the former Buttery restaurant which was home to the Henry the VIII feast. She and Burke starred in a production of Rocky at the Port Mansion Theatre in Port Dalhousie, and decided to keep the fun going when they formed their own theatre company in 2012.

The crowds responded immediately, filling the intimate 65-seat theatre during summer. At the same time, the company offered productions like The Vagina Monologues in May and the interactive murder mystery The Sweet Sounds of Murder last March.

Rocky was by far the company's favorite offering, however. Which makes it bittersweet to say goodbye.

"We love it, we really do," says Mavridis, who also plays Majenta. "Rob and I look at each other all the time during rehearsals, or even during opening weekend, and we're like 'Oh, man.' If only it wasn't such a big process.

"We have a two-year-old now, and we just bought our first house in the past year. There's just a lot going on, and we figure to take a year, maybe two off."

But even a 'break' looks to be busy. Mavridis says she already has a list of smaller shows she's anxious to tackle.

"My father even said this... I've got to learn to slow down. But if there isn't any (new show) in winter, definitely early 2016."

The Rocky Horror Show is at Cork's on Queen Street in NOTL Fridays and Saturdays until Oct. 10. Tickets are $27 to $37 and are available at www.rockyhorrorniagara.com.

It's one last hurrah for The Rocky Horror Show at Cork's in NOTL. Something-Something Productions will give the show a break after its fourth season wraps Oct. 10.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Worship Directory

ST. DAVIDS-QUEENSTON UNITED CHURCH
1453 York Road, St. Davids
905-262-5242
www.stdavids-queenstonuc.ca
Minister: Rev Paul James
Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM
Nursery and Sunday School
Come and celebrate God's love for us all

CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH
1570 Niagara Stone Rd.
www.ccchurch.ca • 905-468-7155
Sunday, October 4th
10 am Worship Gathering & Kids Ministry
Message by: Philip Serez, MB Mission
Title: Celebrating Global Mission

Niagara United Mennonite Church
"Live Life With Us"
Worship Service 11:00 am
Pastors: Rudy & Sharon Dirks, Stephen Cox
1775 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-3313
http://www.redbrickchurch.ca

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2027 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-2611 or 905-468-9673
10:00 am Worship Service
Pastor Larry Ritter - trinitynotl@cogeco.ca

Bahá'í
"Bring thyself to account each day ere thou art summoned to a reckoning...."
Bahá'u'lláh
Oct. 16 - Feast of Knowledge
905-468-0834 www.ca.bahai.org notlbahais@gmail.com

ST. MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
41 Byron Street
Founded 1792
Sunday Services
8:30 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Choral Eucharist
Wednesday Service 10:00 am
905-468-3123
Interim Priest: The Venerable Bruce McPetrie
www.stmarks1792.com

GateWay Community Church
(P.A.O.C.)
1665 Four Mile Creek Road
905-468-8971
October 4th • 10:30 am
Special Guests: Gary and Bev Laing
Missionaries in Cambodia
www.gatewaycc.ca:
Check here for events and podcasts.

www.orchardparkbiblechurch.org
ORCHARD PARK BIBLE CHURCH
434 Hunter Rd.
905-468-5731
Sunday, October 4th
9:30 am - Sunday school for ages 4 - 17
9:45 am - Adult Prayer Time
10.45 am - Worship Service
Message by Pastor Reid Cooke
Worship and Communion Service
Nursery is provided during the message

Amazing Grace United Church
10:30 a.m. Sunday Service
Minister: Rev. Laura Borgerson
Director of Music: Esther Giesbrecht
222 Victoria Street, NOTL
905-468-4044
www.graceunitedchurch.com
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www.jewishstcatharines.com

VILLAGE Bible Church
736 York Road
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-688-2525
Sunday, October 4th
10:00 am Coffee Time
10:30 am Worship Service
Village Kidz (ages 1 - grade 5)
You Can't Put God In Skinny Jeans:
Is God Really In Control?
Pastor Greg Alderton
www.villagebiblechurch.ca

life abundant niagara
Pastor Rick Mills
384 Concession 7 Rd
905 688 3958
Sunday, October 4th
current series
"The Beauty of Holiness"
The Pantry: Sacraments
9:30AM coffee 10:30AM worship
info@lifeabundantniagara.com
www.lifeabundantniagara.com

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49 Glen Park Rd, St Catherines Saturday October 03, 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM Estata Sale - household items, indoor & outdoor furniture bedding, linens, sports equipment Rain or Shine

OCT. 3 - & - OCT. 4
8 am - 6 pm
35 Niagara Stone Rd.
(close to York Rd.)

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(cornar Lina 6)
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Fort Erie

Tuesday, October 6th
5:30pm - 7:30pm

NO COURSES OR FANCY PORTFOLIO NEEDED

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Preference will be given to those with relevant experience. Successful applicants must be prepared to work at various locations and in all weathar conditions **as required**. Minimum wage. Must have own transportation.
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ALLEN, William Scott - Passed away at Chateau Gardens Niagara-on-the-Lake on Sunday, September 20, 2015 at 85 years of age. He touched the hearts and minds of many people through his teaching, music, conversation and spirited parties, as well as being en organist at St. Mark's Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake and a member of the choir at St. Barnabas in St. Catharines. William is survived by his daughters Roberta Harper (Bruce), Jennifer Allen (George Mummery) and Lisz Keallen (Brock May). Loving Pa to his grand-children, Jacob, Calvin, Levi and Malcom Harper and step-grandchildren, Basil, Mason and Andrew Mummery. Beloved brother to Dougles Allen (June), sister Roberta Lawford and predeceased by his sister Eileen Rutherford. Darling Uncle Billy to Jeannie Rutherford (Sri Vanvari) along with many other nieces and nephews. Fondly remembered by Susan Allen. A true friend and confidante to many, Bill loved to cook, travel and was well-read and passionate about a broad range of social issues and a lover of history. His daughters would like to acknowledge the cere end compassion their father received from his caregiver, Judith Ann Falardeau, along with the nurses and PSWs at Chateau Gardens. A private ceremony was held on Friday, September 25th at Lakeview Cemetery in Thorold, Ontario. A celebration of his life will take place on October 17th 3 pm at 29 Upper Canada Dr. in Niagara-on-the-Lake. In lieu of flowers, donations to The Foundation Fighting Blindness Canade (www.ffb.ca) are greatly appreciated.

KUNNAPUU, Lucie "Mumsy" - On Thursday, September 24, 2015, passed away peacefully at the St. Catharines General Hospital, at the age of 93. Beloved wife of the late Rein; loving mother of Raymond (Carmen) and Loretta Piitz (Craig); cherished mumsy to David, Alex (Jennifer) and Tiiu (Todd), doting great grandmother to Jesper and deer sister of Hilda Lapinas (Zigmas). Fondly remembered by her niece and a nephew (predeceased). Lucie was a longtime member of I.O.D.E. and was an active volunteer with the Niagara-on-the-Lake Hospital Auxiliary. Lucie had many interests including; gardening, designing her own patterns, sewing, playing the piano and painting. Cremation has taken place and a private family service will follow. As expressions of sympathy donations to the Alzheimer's Society would be appreciated by the family. Memories, photos end condolences can be shared at
www.morganfuneral.com

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Wherever you are you will always be in my heart. -Mahatma Gandhi

STEWART, Dorothy J. - Passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 22, 2015, with her daughters by her side at the Greater Niagara General Hospital, at the age of 87. Beloved wife of the late Reginald (2009). Cherished mother of Bonnie Spagnol (John), Valerie Terryberry (Terry) and the late Reg (2014). Fondly remembered by 5 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren and siblings. Dorothy was e member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 124, Ladies Auxilary. Cremation has taken piece by her request along with e private family service. As an expression of sympathy donations to either Canadian Cancer Society or Toronto Sick Kids. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at www.morganfuneral.com

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Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal.

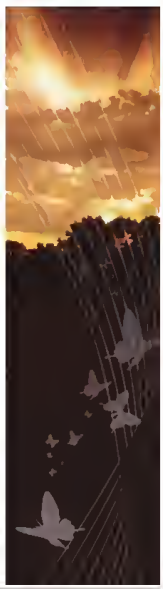
-From a Headstone in Ireland

WOODSY'S WAKE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4
2 PM
At the
Royal Canadian Legion
NOTL

All are welcome

A celebration of the life of Ron Wood



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ADVANCE Notices

FISH FRY
Public Welcome
Take Out Available
Every Thursday 4:30 - 7:30
New Members Welcome
Royal Canadian Legion
Branch # 124, 410 King Street, NOTL
Hall Rental Available.

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OCTOBER 3, 2015
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Ballroom Basics
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Sunday, October 11, 2015 ~ 3 - 4 pm
Niagara-on-the-Lake Community Centre
14 Anderson Lane
For class Information and Registration:
Contact: Herb Schoss
905-348-3123
herb@ballroombasics.ca
www.ballroombasics.ca

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Kim Thuy
Wednesday, October 7, 2015
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BRANCH # 124
410 King St. Niagara-on-the-Lake
A SERVICE OFFICER
will be at Branch # 124
THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16, 2015.
Anyone wishing to see him are asked to notify the Legion by October 15, 2015. • 905-468-2353
legion124@gmail.com

Place your Coming Event Community Calendar Social here, with or without a border, Colour, Graphics optional. Include your Logo!
Deadline: Monday 5 pm
Call Anna at 905-468-3283 ext 102

Lord Mayor Pat Darte and his son Matt drop off 475 pounds of food for Newark Neighbours, collected as part of a Wine Festival Grape Stomping challenge against other Niagara politicians. Darte said he didn't win, but he had a lot of fun, and looks forward to doing better next year. He encourages residents to keep the food donations coming in to help fill the food bank's shelves as volunteers prepare to hand out boxes for Thanksgiving dinner.

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Sports

PHRF 1 boats compete for best start in the second race of The Brox Company 1812 Series. The final series of the Wednesday night racing season of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Sailing Club and the Younstown Yacht Club has finished, with the results as follows:

MAIN AND JIB
1st Fluffy - NOLSC
2nd Battlestar Pegasus YYC
3rdJoyce's Nemesis YYC

PHRF 1
1st Wings NOLSC
2nd Seaweed YYC
3rd Moccasin NOLSC

PHRF 2
1st Mo' Money YYC
2nd Triton YYC
3rd Extra Bases NOLSC

SHARKS
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2nd Red Dwarf NOLSC
3rd Amicus NOLSC

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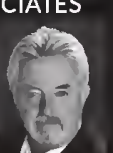
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Sally McGarr, Broker of Record 905-687-9229

A RARE FIND!

CAM SCHWENKER*

701 GENEVA ST - SUITE 2206 $500,000

2ND FLOOR SUITE with the feel of single home living. Year round sun room PLUS a covered & open terrace. Large corner suite with 2 bdrms & 2 baths. Master suite has a 5 pc ensuite. Spacious laundry room, open kitchen, bright eating area, fully open living & dining room, solarium, appliances included, 2 parking spaces, indoor locker. Immediate possession. **Call Cam 905-327-6893 to view!**

FORMER MODEL HOME!

RAIANA SCHWENKER*

8535 FORESTVIEW BLVD - N. FALLS $770,000

Unparalled design in this unique 2 storey home. With an open concept feel, there is a lovely flow with a raised living and dining area which really opens up the lower level. Walk out basement to the fabulous yard with large patio. Large kitchen, 3 bdrms, 5 baths, home gym, full bar, his & hers ensuites, triple garage, full landscaping, plus plus!!
www.SchwenkerHomes.com | 289-219-1848

PRISTINE HOME in ST.CATHARINES

NIAGARA'S BEST KEPT SECRET! Private estate in the heart of the city with over ½ acre. Outdoor kitchen, ponds, waterfalls, entertaining patio and 2 gathering spots. Spectacular setting. Custom interior with attention to detail. Cherry cabinets, granite counters, Limestone, wood and carpeted floors, 4+ bedrooms, 3½ baths, 193' x 161' lot.
Sally McGarr, Broker of Record 905-687-9229

3 XAVIER CRT - ST. CATH $550,000

Fully finished high end home with all main floor living...master suite, laundry & open entertaining rooms. Upper large bedroom, loft area and full bathroom. Finished lower level with family room, office, bedroom, bathroom and lots of storage. This very attractive home is on a cul de sac minutes from the lake and waterfront trail.
Sally@McGarrRealty.com | 905-687-9229

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1244 LAKESHORE RD - ST. CATH $1,500,000

133 x 560 ft lakefront lot with shoreline protection and a custom one owner 3700 sq ft of family living, original Paroyan built home. Approx 1.7 acres. Lovely private main floor in-law apartment with separate entrance, utilities & basement. 5 bdrms, 3 baths, formal & informal spaces, 20 x 40 inground pool, circular driveway, private setting & more!
Sally@McGarrRealty.com | 905-687-9229